What is claimed is:

1) An aqueous silica dispersion comprising:

a) from 1 to 30 weight % silica particles having a surface, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion;

b) from 0.01 to 10 weight % reacted aminosilane compound attached to said surface of said silica particles, based on weight of said silica particles;

c) from 5 to 25 weight % anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles; and

d) an aqueous medium;

wherein said silica particles are dispersed in said aqueous medium.

2) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 comprising, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion,

from 1 to 10 weight % said silica particles; and

from 1 to 25 weight % polymer particles.

3) The aqueous silica dispersion according to claim 1 wherein said silica particles have an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns.

4) A process for preparing an aqueous silica dispersion comprising silica particles dispersed in an aqueous medium, comprising the steps of:

a) providing said aqueous medium;

b) admixing anionic polymeric dispersing agent and aminosilane compound into said aqueous medium;

c) admixing said silica particles into said aqueous medium containing said anionic polymeric dispersing agent and said aminosilane compound; and

d) reacting or allowing to react said aminosilane compound with said silica particles to provide said aqueous silica dispersion.

5) The process according to claim 4 wherein said aqueous silica dispersion comprises:

a) from 1 to 30 weight % said silica particles, based on weight of said aqueous silica dispersion;

b) from 0.01 to 10 weight % said aminosilane compound, based on weight of said silica particles; and

c) from 5 to 25 weight % said anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles.

6) The process according to claim 4 further comprising the step of:

admixing polymer particles into said aqueous medium.

7) The process according to claim 4 wherein said silica particles have an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns.

8) A method for treating tanned leather, comprising the steps of:

a) contacting said tanned leather with an aqueous silica dispersion comprising:

i) silica particles having a surface;

ii) from 0.01 to 10 weight % reacted aminosilane compound attached to said surface of said silica particles, based on weight of said silica particles,

iii) from 5 to 25 weight % anionic polymeric dispersing agent, based on weight of said silica particles,

iv) polymer particles, and

v) an aqueous medium,

wherein said silica particles and said polymer particles are dispersed in said aqueous medium; and

b) drying or allowing to dry said aqueous silica dispersion that is contacted with said tanned leather.

9) The method according to claim 8 wherein said polymer particles are selected from the group consisting of polyurethane polymer particles, acrylic polymer particles, and mixtures thereof.

10) The method according to claim 8 wherein said silica particles have an average diameter in the range of from 1 to 10 microns.